2013 CA ELECTRICAL CODE
TABLE 300.5

Table 300-5. Minimum Cover Requirements, 0 to 600 Volts, Nominal, Burial in Inches
(Cover is defined as the shortest distance measured between a point on the top surface of any direct buried conductor, cable, conduit, or other raceway and the top surface of finished grade, concrete, or similar cover.)

	Type of Wiring Method or Circuit				
Location of Wiring Method or Circuit	1 Direct Burial Cables or Conductors	2 Rigid Metal Conduit or Intermediate Metal Conduit	3 Nonmetallic Raceways Listed for Direct Burial without Concrete Encasement or Other Approved Raceways	4 Residential Branch Circuits Rated 120 Volts or less with GFCI Protection and Maximum Overcurrent Protection of 20 Amperes	5 Circuits for Control of Irrigation and Landscape Lighting Limited to Not More than 30 Volts and Installed with Type UF or in Other Identified Cable or Raceway
All Locations Not Specified Below	24	6	18	12	6
In Trench Below 2-Inch Thick Concrete or Equivalent	18	6	12	6	6
Under a Building	0 (In Raceway Only)	0	0	0 (In Raceway Only)	0 (In Raceway Only)
Under Minimum of 4-Inch Thick Concrete Exterior Slab with No Vehicular Traffic and the Slab Extending Not Less than 6 Inches beyond the Underground Installation	18	4	4	6 (Direct Burial) 4 (In Raceway)	6 (Direct Burial) 4 (In Raceway)
Under Streets, Highways, Roads, Alleys, Driveways, and Parking Lots	24	24	24	24	24
One- and Two-Family Dwelling Driveways and Outdoor Parking Areas, and Used Only for Dwelling- Related Purposes	18	18	18	12	18
In or under Airport Runways, Including Adjacent Areas Where Trespassing Prohibited	18	18	18	18	18
In Solid Rock Where Covered by Minimum of 2 Inches Concrete Extending Down to Rock	2 (In Raceway Only)	2	2	2 (In Raceway Only)	2 (In Raceway Only)

Note 1. For SI units: one inch = 25.4 millimeters
Note 2. Raceways approved for burial only where concrete encased shall require concrete envelope not less than 2 inches thick.
Note 3. Lesser depths shall be permitted where cables and conductors rise for terminations or splices or where access is otherwise required.
Note 4. Where one of the wiring method types listed in columns 1-3 is combined with one of the circuit types in columns 4 and 5, the shallower depth of burial shall be permitted.